

and said top face and said bottom face, respectively, and intermediate faces formed in said transition regions; and

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concl.

a receptacle for receiving said holder along a longitudinal insertion direction, said receptacle having resilient inside contact areas exerting resilient forces on said intermediate faces.

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-18 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-3 have been rejected as being obvious over Hoffer et al. (4,798,440) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claim 1 has been amended to better define the invention and now specifies that the receptacle has resilient inside contact areas that exert resilient forces on the intermediate faces. Support for the changes can be found by referring to the application at page 7-14 and at page 9, line 24 through page 10, line 13.

The receptacle 12 taught by Hoffer et al. is formed with projections 52 that frictionally engage holes 54 contained in a printed circuit board 32 (See Fig. 2 and column 2, lines 35-40). The taught connector assembly 10 requires forming the fiber holder and the receptacle 12 with high precision so that there will be limited play or no play between the components. There is no teaching or suggestion to form the receptacle 12 with resilient inside contact areas. This should be especially clear since the contact areas of the receptacle 12 are rigidly connected to the printed circuit board 32 by the projections 52 thereby preventing movement of the contact areas.

In item 5 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 7-9 have been rejected as being obvious over Hoffer et al. (4,798,440) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

These claims are patentable for the reasons given above in regard to claim 1.

In item 6 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 4-6 and 10-18 have been allowed.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is,

therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 7-9 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, he is respectfully requested to telephone counsel so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of two months pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$390.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and

Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Applicant : Peter Hildebrandt et al.

Applic. No. : 09/322,715

Filed : May 28, 1999

Title : Coupling Device

Examiner : Sarah Song

Group Art Unit : 2874

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 1 (twice-amended). Coupling device, comprising:

an optical fiber holder having a top face, a bottom face,
narrow side faces between said top face and said bottom face,
with transition regions formed between said narrow side faces,
and said top face and said bottom face, respectively, and
intermediate faces formed in said transition regions; and

a receptacle for receiving said holder along a longitudinal
insertion direction, said receptacle having resilient inside
contact areas exerting resilient forces on said intermediate
faces [contacting said intermediate faces without play].